



**NAME:** Michael Cook

**TITLE:** Assistant Director

**BUSINESS:** The Sammons Center for the Arts

**STUDENT:** Diana Mbabazi

Michael Cook is an award-winning textile artist specializing in silk work. He has been involved in sericulture since 2001, rearing a number of varieties of domesticated and wild silkmoths and using their cocoons to make silk thread for weaving, embroidery, and other crafts.

Michael travels to do speaking engagements on his craft. He also holds workshops for museums, hand weavers guilds, textile conferences, and fairs. His work has been featured in the American Museum of Natural History and HGTV's "That's Clever." Michael maintains a website on silk work and sericulture called [wormspit.com](http://wormspit.com), and has published articles in a number of print and online textile-related magazines. Through the medium of the Internet, Michael has made connections with sericulturists and silk enthusiasts around the world.

Michael attended the University of Houston, studying a wide range of creative pursuits while earning a degree with honors in English Literature. After college, he worked for Old City Park, the Historical Village of Dallas, in charge of arts and crafts classes and demonstrations as well as managing park interpretive staff. He currently serves as Assistant Director for The Sammons Center for the Arts, a facility which provides office, rehearsal, and performing spaces for theaters, dance troupes, choruses, and orchestras.

Michael lives in Oak Cliff in southern Dallas, Texas, with a small menagerie including three dogs, two cats, thirteen chickens, two hives of bees, and hundreds of silkworms.